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University of Melbourne
Bacteriology Department

Parkville N.2, Victoria
AUSTRALIA

SDR, CM

15th February, 1963

Professor Joshua Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University,
Stanford,
California, U. S. A.

Dear Josh,

We have just had the pleasure of listening to your five lecture films on genetics through the courtesy of McGraw-Hill. The copies of these lectures are now being deposited with the Film Library in Canberra and we will be using them for teaching purposes throughout the year. Gus sat in with me because both of us have to make a short descriptive comment on the lectures. We both agreed that they were first-class teaching material.

My main reason for writing is to seek your advice on a scheme which I am hopeful of bringing off in connection with the opening of the new School of Microbiology in May 1964. Apart from the official platitudinous statements made by chancellors, etc., on such occasions I wanted to use the opening of the School as a professional and international meeting of microbiologists. To this end I am thinking of seven distinguished overseas visitors, each of whom would be expected to deliver a lecture of his own choice on some aspect of microbiology and all the lectures would be published by the Melbourne University Press in the form of a monograph.

My selection has been dictated by two things, first distinction in a particular area and, secondly, my personal friendship with the individual. Another aspect that entered into it was to weight my invitations slightly in favour of continental Europe simply because in Australia we have a tendency to turn to England and the United States

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as the focal points of scientific achievement. The persons I wish to invite are Monod, Lwoff, Cavalli, Westphal, Miles, G. S. Wilson and yourself. The first four I have already approached and all are keen to come. I have no doubt that Wilson and Miles would readily accept and I presume that you would come also if the dates were right - that is May 18th to May 25th, 1964.

My real problem, however, is the finding of finance for the seven distinguished persons which I estimate would cost about £7,000. Their living expenses while in Melbourne and in other parts of Australia could undoubtedly be met from local resources. I frankly admit that the £7,000 travelling expenses should be found in Australia, either from Government or private sources, but I think you are sufficiently aware of the local scene here to know that this would be a difficult but not necessarily impossible target. Could you advise me as to whether there are any other organizations who may be interested in supporting the international team, knowing, of course, that that support would eventually be recognised in the publication of a monograph? In discussing this question with Gus he suggested that the National Science Foundation might be approached but thought it well to seek your advice before doing so and perhaps to obtain the name of the appropriate executive who could be contacted. Another suggestion came from the French Ambassador (who curiously enough happens to be Jacques Monod's brother) that I ask the University of Melbourne to approach the Department of External Affairs in Australia to issue invitations at a government level and the respective governments, French, Italian, etc., send the nominated persons at their expense.

This would be my second choice of approach because I feel that it is not the foreign government who should support its scientific ambassador but the host country. If you can offer any suggestions as to how I can bring about this exciting dream I would be most grateful, and naturally would like to know whether you yourself would be free to come at this particular time.

With every good wish to you and Esther,

Yours,

